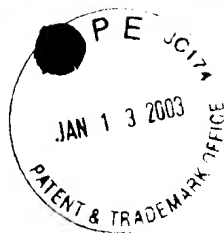


Docket No.: 50090-247



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Osamu HASHIMOTO, et al.

Serial No.: 09/730,750

Filed: December 07, 2000

Group Art Unit: 2829

Examiner: Jimmy Nguyen

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD OF INSPECTING SEMICONDUCTOR INTEGRATED
CIRCUIT

RECEIVED
JAN 14 2003
TECHNICAL STAFF

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

This Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee.

**REQUEST TO CONSIDER REFERENCES AFTER CLOSE OF PROSECUTION AND
BEFORE PAYMENT OF ISSUE FEE**

The undersigned hereby requests consideration and entry of this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and accompanying references under 37 CFR 1.97(d).

Please charge the processing fee under 1.17(p) of \$180.00 to Deposit Account 500417.

CERTIFICATION PARAGRAPH

The undersigned certifies that, to the best of his knowledge, each item of information contained in this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement as described in 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1).

Each non-English language reference was cited in a corresponding foreign application search report or office action and its relevance discussed therein. A copy of the foreign search report or office action, together with an English language version thereof, is attached for the Examiner's information.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: January 13, 2003